



Peace constituency works convention

by Chuck Goodmacher

Among the 5,000 delegates, 15,000 media persons, and countless thousands of other political junkies in San Francisco for the Democratic National Convention were thousands of people openly proclaiming their support for the cause of peace.

The advocates of peace represented a wide variety of organizations and perspectives, as well as nearly all 50 states. They brought with them an equally diverse spectrum of goals and of strategies for achieving them.

Outside the Moscone Center, two major peace efforts were held to coincide with the convention. The largest, a "Vote Peace in '84" rally attracted more than 40,000 people Monday evening, July 16. More than 500 organizations nationwide joined a temporary coalition to support the rally. "This is an unprecedented coalition," said Vote Peace in '84 Coordinator Michael Terrazino. "Vote Peace represents a new consolidating trend in the nation's progressive political arena."

The rally, addressed by Jesse Jackson; Dr. Helen Caldicott; Dennis Brutus; Ron Dellums; Mario Obledo; Maggie Kuhn; Arnaldo Ramos, and others, linked arms control issues with concerns about U.S. military intervention in Third World countries and problems of unemployment and poverty in the U.S.

Meanwhile, several hundred others were taking a decidedly different approach to the convention. Also organized specifically for the convention, the Democratic Warchest Tours sought to publicize Democratic Party connections to corporations in the war industry. On the first day of the tour, while listening to a speaker talk about Diamond Shamrock Corporation, a huge energy conglomerate, manufacturer of Agent Orange and contributor of \$100,000 to the Democratic Convention, "tactical" police arrested nearly 100 demonstrators on felony charges of "conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor."

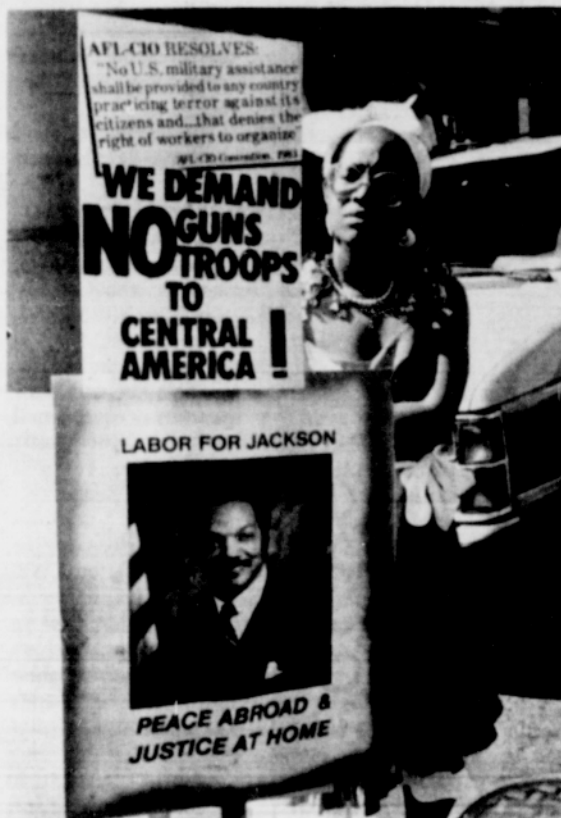
Inside the convention, still other sets of goals and strategies were being pursued. Jesse Jackson put forth minority platform planks calling for a 20% reduction in the military budget over five years, and for a "no first use" policy regarding nuclear weapons. Gary Hart proposed an anti-intervention plank to limit presidential use of force (as in Lebanon and Grenada).

Hart's plank was accepted, but Jackson's peace planks were resoundingly defeated. Most peace organizations represented within the convention hall abandoned Jackson's call in favor of not irritating Mondale and other prominent politicians.

The National Freeze Campaign, and other arms control groups, had lobbied the platform committee and party leaders since December, 1983, and most were quite

pleased with the result. The platform contains nine out of ten Freeze points and, according to Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA), "it presents the strongest, clearest, most creative strategy for preventing nuclear war ever offered the American public."

Whether the peace movement as a whole comes out in force to work on the presidential campaign this November is unclear, yet some groups have already made known their plans. Oregon Freeze Voter '84 has registered "pro-Freeze" voters for months. They are also contributing time and volunteer energy to help re-elect Congressman Les AuCoin, and this is expected to help Mondale as well.



Peace activist at a march for jobs, peace and justice sponsored by organized labor. Marchers numbered 100,000. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

Impatient with politicians, some peace activists are turning toward acts of civil disobedience, such as blocking the "White Train" carrying warheads to Trident submarines in Bangor, Washington. New Clear Vision is organizing for a Portland "Nuclear Free Zone" ordinance.

Most peace groups locally are continuing their public education work on the issue and cannot work directly on a partisan campaign because of their non-profit legal status.

Jackson unites wide Black spectrum

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W.—The candidacy of Rev. Jesse Jackson not only glowed with the colors of the rainbow coalition, but a cease fire occurred around ideological battles as the progressive agenda absorbed the nationalistic and Marxist elements within the Black Liberation Movement.

Rev. Herbert Daughtry, chair of the National Black United Front, said the Jackson campaign brought intensive and extensive unity to Black communities across the country.

"His campaign involved a nationalistic, reformist, revolutionary and religious dimension. The masses grow weary of seeing us in conflict. They do not understand the ideological battles. Jesse united all of us together, thereby creating pervasive pride, dignity and self-respect," he added.

Amiri Baraka (Leroy Jones), editor of the *Black Nation Journal*, defines himself as a Marxist. He complimented Daughtry by noting the significance of Jackson drawing in the entire spectrum of Black political trends.

"The fundamental threat to capitalism is democracy. When you raise the level of democracy, you bring out the contradictions in the system. People will find out that the voting public does not elect the president. The electoral college does."

"Thus, Jesse Jackson received 22% of the popular vote but only got 7% of the delegates. Walter Mondale receives 39% of the popular vote and obtains 51% of the delegates. Democracy has never existed for Blacks because it literally has never existed for the majority of U.S. citizens," he said.

Baraka continued by stating he expects a change to come about by exposing the absence of democracy in the U.S. "Once people are empowered with the truth, I believe they will challenge that part of the system. Jackson put dual primaries on the minds of the people. Now, dual primaries are used as an example of the lack of democracy in America."

Along with this unity among different ideological factions, a new color was added to the rainbow coalition—the Arab-American. Dr. James J. Zogby, deputy campaign manager for fundraising, said Jackson extended Arab-Americans an invitation to join the rainbow coalition after the 20th anniversary of the March on Washington. "He felt it was time for us to get involved in the political mainstream. It's a real breakthrough for us. Mondale has done the opposite. He has returned checks from Arab-Americans. The problems Jackson has had with the established, traditional organization is the threat over leadership control that they've had for years. The time has come to either surrender power or settle for parity."



The "Vote Peace in '84" rally drew a crowd of 40,000 to the Moscone center. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)